KEEPING IT REAL?

Check out our coverage of Real Food Week on **pages 2 and 7.**

(ALMOST) 46 PEAKS

See **page 8** to find out how many peaks Hamiltonians conquered this year

WELCOME TO HELL

For a review of senior Jim Anesta's original musical, *Hell*, turn to **page 10**.

THE SPECTATOR

Thursday, Sept. 26 2013

Volume LIV Number 4

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH COMATOS '15

THE EMAILS HEARD 'ROUND THE HILL

by Bonnie Wertheim '14
Editor-in-Chief

It's highly unusual that an event at Hamilton College isn't free and open to the public. Our campus hosts more opportunities for education and enrichment every week than any single student could possibly attend, so it makes sense that not everyone at Hamilton takes advantage of every talk and show that the College offers. That said, most recognize that they have the ability to attend any event on campus when work permits. So, when Director of Diversity & Inclusion Amit Taneja sent an email to students, faculty and staff on Sept. 19 announcing that the first installment of a three-part discussion series would be open to "people of color only," the email understandably gave members of the community pause.

The topic of the Real Talk series was internalized racism, or the projection of negative attitudes onto one's own racial or ethnic group. "This three-part series really came out of student input," Taneja told *The Spectator*. His vision in hosting three separate discussions—one for people of color, one for white members of the community and one that would be open to the entire campus—was to create a "safe space" where individuals could air their thoughts and confusions about the topic before addressing Hamilton as a theoretical whole.

The format is not without precedent. Institutions such as the University of Michigan, Syracuse University, Arizona State University, the University of Maryland, UMass Amherst, Skidmore College and Mt. Holyoke College all have intergroup dialogue programs that allow students to discuss topics among people who share their identities, then reconvene as a full group for further dialogue.

"The research on this pedagogical approach is very positive," Taneja explained. "It gives people some time to work out their feelings and say the things they won't feel comfortable saying in front of the other. And then, when you bring people together, the dialogue is much more meaningful. It's a way of incremental dialogue that just gets more complex."

Yet when Taneja tried to implement the same kind of program on the Hill, members of the community and the outside media were quick to criticize its design. One of the more inflammatory headlines, *The Daily Caller*'s "Trustafarian rich-kid college brings back separate-but-equal race segregation," suggested that the program was a reversion to the oppressive social structures that preceded the Civil Rights Movement.

"Amit's goal was very inclusive, but the wording gave rise to misconceptions," President Joan Hinde Stewart commented to *The Spectator*.

Of the responses Taneja's invitation received, none generated as much conversation on campus as an email that Dean Ball '14, president of the Alexander Hamilton Institute Undergraduate Fellows (AHIUF), sent to the entire community on Sept. 22. The email proposed an alternative to the Real Talk event, hosted by AHIUF, and concluded with the disclaimer, "It will not be a safe zone"—a signoff that echoed and opened up an ongoing campus-wide dialogue about discourse.

"We specifically discussed whether or not to include the phrase, 'It will not be a safe zone'—those seven words—for literally 20 minutes," Ball told The Spectator. He collaborated with one of the AHIUF's co-leaders, Paul Carrier '14, in authoring the all-campus email.

That evening, Taneja sent a response email in which he opened up Thursday's dialogue to the entire campus, rather than limiting its attendance to students of color, and the AHIUF subsequently canceled its competing event.

At Monday's Student Assembly meeting, Ball apologized to students who were offended by his email's content, specifically its final line. Additionally, he and Taneja had opportunities to share their own definitions of what a safe space is. Ball explained that safe spaces are ones where people can express opinions—forums for debate—whereas Taneja explained these spaces as ones in which experiences may be shared without judgment.

"I've personally never been to a safe zone, and I failed to understand how sensitive it is for some people and how much it helps some people," Ball admitted.

"If the consensus is that Amit's 'messaging was off,' the same courtesy must be extended to Dean," Scott Milne '14, an AHI undergraduate fellow, said.

Discussion of safe zones continued to pervade Hamilton on Tuesday, when members of the community woke up to find the College postered with quotations from prominent black thinkers and artists such as Malcolm X, Audre Lorde, Toni Morrison, Nikki Giovanni and Tupac Shakur. This conversation was much bigger than a few emails, and the cross-campus graffiti by "The Movement" illustrated its impact.

"I knew it would be controversial," Ball said. "I didn't know it would generate the kind of controversy that it did."

On Thursday, Sept. 26 at 4:15 p.m., a conversation led by Taneja will take place in the Alumni Gym. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and help address the questions: "What does a meaningful dialogue about race look like?" and "How can we best structure such a dialogue?" Whereas Taneja's original event was a discussion about a specific topic, Taneja hopes that the reinvisioned meeting will "take a pulse of the campus" and allow the community to consider what it needs to engage in productive dialogue.

"I don't think one meeting is going to solve [this issue]," Taneja said, "but I think of it as a very healthy place for everybody to come together and start having that conversation."

Real Food Week: Hamilton goes loco for local

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
News Editor

Where and how the food on our plates was produced is not typically our first consideration when we sit down to eat our meals. For Hamilton students Heather Krieger '14 , Sally Bourdon '15 and Morgan Osborn '14, however, the mission to eat "real" food—defined by the Real Food Challenge group as local, ecologically sound (low-impact or organic), humane, and fair trade products—is of the utmost importance towards the improvement of our community's economical and nutritional well-being.

According to the organization's website, the Real Food Challenge "leverages the power of youth and universities to create a healthy, fair and green food system." Its primary campaign is to shift $1 billion of existing university food budgets away from industrial farms and junk food and towards local/community-based food sources by 2020. A notable feature of the organization is that its driving force comes directly from student activists, such as Krieger and Osborn, co-leaders of Hamilton College's Slow Food organization. These leaders not only give fuel to the real food movement on campus but also remain in frequent contact with representatives from the national organization as well as students from schools throughout the country to offer advice, share challenges/weaknesses, etc.

With the assistance of other Slow Food-like groups nationwide, Krieger and Osborn will join with students and faculty on October 24—National Food Day—to present a proposal to launch a campus-wide decision to eat "real" food to President Stewart.

"Hamilton is located in an agricultural region, and we are privileged to have so many farmers nearby. I think it's important for the Hamilton community to realize this and strengthen connections between our school and these producers," Krieger said.

"We are lucky to be at Hamilton, this institution with tremendous purchasing power that has the potential to [affect] change and directly support local, humane, environmentally conscious food producers," Osborn added.

PHOTO BY HANNAH LIFSET '14

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, members of the college community picnicked outside McEwen Hall for a locally sourced lunch.

Hamilton College, with the assistance of its catering service Bon Appétit, has encouraged students to eat real and local food for the past 10 years, according to General Manager of Bon Appétit Pat Raynard. This year, however, the food service is teaming with campus groups, including Slow Food and the Community Farm, in an effort—appropriately titled Real Food Week—to convey to students and faculty the importance and benefits of eating such products. Real Food Week aims to start a campus-wide dialogue about food from various angles; throughout the week, the groups strove to spur conversations about the economic, ecological and health benefits of eating local, the challenges surrounding organic food, the importance of access to culturally appropriate foods, the lives of producers and the globalization of the food industry.

The week began with a Farmer's Market along Martin's Way on Monday, Sept. 23. During this small event, students and faculty were able to purchase locally grown and produced vegetables, meat and pastries from both the Hamilton Community Farm as well as nearby businesses. Later in the day, Bon Appétit provided students with a taste of local, "real" fare—kale, green beans, zucchini, tomatoes, etc.—through its food sampling in the Sadove Living Room. During this event, Raynard and Bon Appétit Executive Chef Derek Roy sought to teach participants how to eat these foods while they are in season and how Hamilton has been working towards keeping food in the dining halls "real."

The entire Hamilton community indulged in local treats on Tuesday during the Eat Local Challenge in the McEwen Courtyard. According to Raynard, when Bon Appétit launched its first Eat Local Challenge in 2005, "the idea of caring about 'local food' was a novelty, not a national movement." Thus, the main goal behind the annual event was to encourage people to seek out the plethora of food growing in surrounding areas. Offering healthy and organically-grown delicacies including, though not limited to, salt potatoes, honeyed raspberries , sun gold tomato salad, and roast pork loin, the meal advocated for local goods in that all of the products came from local farmers and artisans within 150 miles of Hamilton College.

Students and faculty filled up all of the registration spots allotted for Wednesday's Real Food Wellness Luncheon in the Blood Fitness Center. The presentation featured a panel of local, farm-to-table and sustainable restaurant owners including Utica's Tailor and the Cook as well as Hamilton's own Café Opus and Bon Appétit. In addition to consuming a meal created entirely with local, organic ingredients, participants were able to learn from the speakers about what they choose to incorporate in their recipes and why they believe it is important to keep their food "real."

The remaining days of Hamilton's official Real Food Week includes more unique opportunities to learn more about the Real Food vision for the food industry. On Thursday, Sept. 26 at 3:00 p.m., Bon Appétit's regional nutritionist Danielle Rossner will speak to students about the benefits of vegan and vegetarian diets and also distinguish between facts and myths concerning these lifestyles. Later in the evening, the Little Pub will feature beers and ciders from local breweries, which the students can drink with samples of local cheese. The week-long event will conclude Friday at 6 p.m.with a community potluck dinner at McEwen, during which the Hamilton community is welcome to join with the Mohawk Valley Slow Food group for another delectably organic and local meal. The campus community is also encouraged to bring homemade dishes for others to sample.

Krieger and Osborn, as well as others involved in Real Food Week, hope that the event will impact the food decisions the Hamilton community makes. Osborn said, "These choices we make three times a day have an effect on other people and our environment somewhere down the line."

Real Food Week has catalyzed an ongoing discussion on campus about the importance of eating local products. By continuing this conversation, Krieger wants to shed light on the organic and ecological options the majority of the Hamilton community unwittingly enjoys. Her ultimate goal for the community's members is illustrated in her final, powerful statement: "It's so easy to take our food for granted and forget that it has most likely travelled hundreds of miles and passed through numerous hands to reach our plates."

After Real Food Week, it is unquestionable that the source and treatment of food will become a core concern at each and every one of our meals.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Friday, September 20, 2013

12:53 a.m.	Fire Alarm Activation – Woollcott House
11:36 p.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Saturday, September 21, 2013

12:14 a.m.	Suspicious Activity – Visitor Lot
1:24 a.m.	Marijuana Complaint – Minor Hall
4:48 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
9:17 a.m.	Concern for Welfare – Residence Hall
6:22 p.m.	Suspicious Incident – Eells Hall
7:03 p.m.	Smoke Detector Activation – McIntosh Hall
7:50 p.m.	Smoke Detector Activation – Bundy West
8:08 p.m.	Hazardous Condition – Dunham Hall
11:15 p.m.	Noise Complaint – Minor Residence Hall

Sunday, September 22, 2013

12:18 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
1:39 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
6:49 a.m.	Fire Alarm Activation – Residence Hall
10:26 a.m.	Fire Alarm Activation – Residence Hall
10:59 a.m.	Fire Alarm Activation – Residence Hall

New admissions materials illustrate the Hamilton 'promise'

by Katie Hee '14
Senior Editor

The Office of Admission and Financial Aid enters a new cycle of applications and decisions this fall, and with that new season has come new promotional materials—both paper and digital. The new Admission homepage and pamphlets are focused on three guiding principles: "Study what you love," "Be who you are" and "Find your future." While facts about the College are easy to find in sources like The Princeton Review, these materials profile Hamilton students and alumni in detail to provide prospective students and families with a sense of what our community looks like.

"We hope to convey the essence of Hamilton, the Hamilton education and what one can expect of their life after Hamilton," explained Senior Director of Visual Communications Catherine Brown. "We chose to use the students' words to best describe their stories because they tell it best."

In the past, the majority of information about life on the Hill was sent to admitted students in a booklet. But as digital media rises in relevance and accessibility, Hamilton decided to place more importance on the webpage. While students will receive four booklets "in a four-part series outlining the promises we make to our students," the information is also available on the Admissions homepage. The interactive design features noteworthy facts and statistics, student photos and stories and links to useful pages for prospective students.

Claire Barton '14 is one student who contributed to the website. "It's so much more visual than other college admissions pages, which are predominantly text-heavy," said Barton. "Plus the site is easy to navigate, gives prospective students a look into what real students are up to up on the Hill, and [always a plus] it's colorful! I think Admissions was wise to shake things up."

The idea of developing new admission content was first discussed over a year ago. Brown, who works in Hamilton's Office of Communications and Development, began designing the booklets and webpage before turning to the rest of the team to fully implement the project.

Njideka Ofoleta '16 also contributed her story. "I think that an amazing job was done by the C&D office of depicting what makes Hamilton so unique and conveying the different things about our school that make it such a remarkable place to study at."

As prospective students become aware of the new website, the College will be able to track the information that generates the most views and clicks on the homepage and adjust accordingly. The development team is looking forward to any feedback that will help them to improve the site and display the information about Hamilton that matters most to students and families who are seeking their school of best fit.

HAMILTON.EDU

Student Assembly Update

by Emily Moore '15
Production Editor

Alumni Weekend sports tailgates attempt to bolster school spirit

This Saturday, from noon to 4 p.m., Student Assembly and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will be sponsoring a community Sports Tailgate event. There will be one main table on the green near Steuben Field, and peripheral tables at the Turf Field, Love Field and the Field House. Bon Appétit will be providing typical tailgate fair such as burgers and hot dogs, as well as cookies, coffee and hot cider. Cider doughnuts from the Cider Mill, a perennial Hamilton favorite, will be available as well. Football, men's and women's soccer, field hockey and volleyball are all playing at home on Saturday. Many Hamilton athletes who are not playing on Saturday will be showing their support by helping staff the tailgate event. Student Assembly hosted a Sports Tailgate last spring at the Jackie Robinson Classic, and the success of that tailgate inspired Student Assembly President Anthony Jackson '15 to continue the program, and try to include as many sports as possible. Student Assembly's Social Traditions Committee and chair Cassie Pepin '15 did most of the planning for the event. Student Assembly is hoping that these Sports Tailgates will encourage students to attend games in greater numbers,

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Brian Sobotko '16
News Writer

Bates begins OIE speaker series

While students at Hamilton are bringing discussions about race and safe zones to the foreground, Bates College is also working towards developing a more inclusive, compassionate community. Last week, the Bates Office of Intercultural Education (OIE) launched the OIE Speaker Series with a speech from Manal al-Sharif, a women's rights advocate from Saudi Arabia. al-Sharif is known internationally for filming and posting a video of herself breaking Saudi Arabia's law banning women from driving. According to the Bates website, OIE programs "are grounded in an understanding that difference includes people of all sexual orientations, ethnicities, abilities, religious, spiritual and cultural traditions, gender identities, socio-economic backgrounds and races. The OIE endeavors to increase intercultural competence through ongoing dialog and academic engagement."

This week, photographer Jeff Sheng, showed an exhibition called *The Fearless Project: Photographs of LGBT Athletes*. Finally, in October, the OIE will welcome poets Alix Olson and B Yung.

Bowdoin revisits hazing policy

Following a recent acknowledgement of hazing on campus, Bowdoin announced a revised hazing policy this month according to an article in *The Bowdoin Orient*. Bowdoin, which has not had Greek societies since the 1990s, focuses this new policy on the relationships between sports teams. According to Director of Athletics Tim Ryan, all team captains received a coach-led seminar on what constitutes hazing and teams held mandated discussions on the issue.

"It opens up a dialogue between students and coaches that will hopefully enable us to have conversations in advance of activities taking place," Ryan said.

This renewed emphasis comes months after the Bowdoin men's tennis team forfeited four matches and was ineligible for postseason play because of the discovery of hazing. In 2011, Bowdoin forfeited a men's hockey NESCAC championship because of hazing.

"Compared to a vast majority of schools, we are way ahead. Our work builds on environmental efforts we have had in place for a long time. But we have now reached new heights in holistic sustainability and we have committed the College to a long-term plan for even greater achievement," President Leo I. Higdeon Jr. said at convocation.

The message of sustainability has become campus wide. During Convocation, Art Professor Denise Pelletier echoed the theme.

"It's natural to compare the enormity of a problem with our own smallness, and we tend to rationalize at least some bit of helplessness in this equation," she said. "We all need community for personal and global sustenance. Nobody here's going to go it alone."

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Is Hamilton a 'safe zone'?

The past week has been a trying one for Hamilton. Last Thursday, when Amit Taneja sent out an email advertising the Days-Massolo Center's event, "Real Talk: A Dialogue about Internalized Racism," most students probably didn't even open it. But soon, a single emboldened sentence in the message—"In order to create a safe space, this program is open to people of color only"—turned into the overheard conversation across campus, and down the Hill, and all around the Internet.

For full news coverage of recent events, please see our cover story. Here, we do not seek to summarize what happened after the original email announcement, nor do we desire to point the finger of blame at any one individual or organization for inciting controversy.

While many interpret the current controversy as problematic or even hostile, *The Spectator* believes the College community should continue to address the important issues being raised above the surface. The initial question of whether having a "safe space" to discuss difficult issues necessitates segregation is crucial. While this problem is often avoided, because most discussions of difficult issues at Hamilton are self-selecting in audience or occur in private among friends, a good rule of thumb for public events is to err on the side of inclusivity. As Student Assembly President Anthony Jackson '15 said at Monday's packed SA meeting, "Progress is made by pushing the comfort zone."

The broader question asked in the last few days, however, is even more important: Is Hamilton a community where everyone—regardless of race, creed or color—feels safe and accepted? When signs that say, "Hamilton is not a safe zone," wallpaper our campus, what does that mean? *The Spectator* certainly hopes that Hamilton is a welcoming ground to any person who reaches the top of the Hill, but in light of many comments made in the last week, we understand that the ideal is not always matched by the reality. We must hold ourselves to a higher standard of civility and openness. Moreover, we must remember that diversity is an issue that transcends race. Consideration of the diversity of Hamilton experiences caused by divergent sexualities, socio-economic classes, nationalities and political ideologies is also necessary.

Finally, we hope that the community keeps in mind that the "town hall" meeting scheduled for today at 4:15 p.m. in the Alumni Gym is merely a conversation about how to have a conversation about race. We hope that this discussion is productive and progressive, and that it leads to further enterprising conversations about race relations at Hamilton. Most importantly, we hope that these conversations will actively better our community, to the point where all members feel safe and valued. We applaud the passion demonstrated this past week, whether it involved discussing the issue in the dining hall or distributing signs across campus, and we anticipate that this meeting will not serve as the endpoint. If anything, it should serve as a beginning.

Correction to 'Social space changes limit student options': This article incorrectly cited a statistic regarding the number of resuscitations that Hamilton College Emergency Medical Services attended to during the 2012-2013 calendar year. HCEMS, protected under HIPA, does not disclose information of this nature. The number was based on records published in *The Spectator*'s Campus Safety Incident Report.

***The Spectator* editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

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Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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How we don't talk about race

By John Rufo '16
Opinion Contributor

How do we define ourselves? Am I a person of color if I identify as biracial? What if I "look" a certain way but don't "act" it? Expressing any discussion in the terms "white" and "persons of color" can create, as Amit Taneja put it, "race set up in two camps in an antagonistic way."

That was my, and several other students', initial issue with the Real Talk dialogue series—that it conformed to a binary between students of color and white students. The event's announcement forced each recipient to define him or herself as a person of color or as a white student, which presents all kinds of problems for students who don't necessarily feel that they fit into one of those categories, or that they might fit into both depending on the context. Where is the safe space for the folks who find themselves in between the two?

While the college community had every right to consider the implications of Amit's email, Dean Ball's response took the point to the nth degree and forgot its purpose. "It will not be a safe zone" is the line that resonates in his Sept. 22 email regarding AHI's "response" meeting to the Real Talk series. I didn't initially agree with the division of groups based on these racial identifiers either, but putting it in these terms was aggressive and offensive. He's recognized that and apologized for it. But the question "what does a safe space look like?" cannot be answered over an all-campus email, through a single meeting—nor can it be resolved in this editorial.

According to Amit, the controversy surrounding the emails catalyzed a lot of feeling that existed "sub rosa... ha[ving] exposed something that's been below the surface." Let's follow up on that. Instead of retaining our respective tensions, arguments, and feeling, let's begin the discourse about race and racism. Attend meetings, respect others' beliefs and experiences and become involved. No serious discussion commences behind computer screens and through debates instead of dialogues. "The sideshow has become more important than the actual topic," Anthony Jackson '15 stated at Monday night's Student Assembly meeting. The discussion demands a redirection, not a rearticulation.

While there are countless meetings every week for all-campus discussions on race, gender and a myriad of other important issues that I somehow find excuses to miss, a campus abuzz with conversations about race is impossible to ignore.

DAYS MOSSOLO CENTER

For me, actually talking about race begins with going to these events and putting myself, my beliefs and my experiences out there. Because every time I don't participate, I miss the chance to express myself and, more importantly, to hear my fellow students express their beliefs and experiences. How can I ever talk about race if only a "controversy" like this stirs up enough feeling in me to make a move? It shouldn't take my possible exclusion in an event to get me interested. I think it's time to start talking and stop criticizing, to begin discussing instead of dismissing. And it's a lot easier to tear down Real Talk than to participate in it.

Phyllis Breland, director of the Higher Education Opportunity Program at Hamilton, rightfully said, "This conversation is not easy—it is painful." I understand why people don't want to have this discussion, but it is wrong to make excuses that don't identify the core—my core—problem: that it's hard to have these conversations. And this is only the beginning to an ongoing conversation. Racism cannot be "fixed" in a series of dialogues, but it can be recognized, discussed and undisguised. There is no final say on the matter. Let's start talking.

Thumbs Up

Bee Keeping Lecture with Campus Safety Officer: In which we learned underage students caught drinking will have a swarm of trained bees wearing tiny campus safety uniforms released onto them.

Hamilton Environmental Activism Group Uses Comic Sans in Email: do whatever you want: kill trees, spill oil, waste paper, but for the love of God do it in Times New Roman.

Challah For Hunger makes "You Go Glen Coco(nut)" flavor: they've been ignoring my requests for a "Your Mom's Chest Hair" one.

Thumbs Down

Career Center Weekly Digest: Can you help my parents digest my lack of job offers?

Everyone is using Hamilton Secrets to air out their baggage: Amazing that we can't talk face to face at a school where we regularly cram 80 naked people into a sweaty Babbit common room.

Fixing Wi-Fi Dead Zones on Campus: No word on when we will fix the metaphorically dead ones, such as the Annex at 8 a.m. on a Sunday.

Who Cares?

PreLawSocietyMeeting: Where students meet to discuss the good ol' days, pre law, before we got all strict about things like "stop-lights," "robbery," and "imprisonment for murder."

People came back from 46 peaks this weekend: It's just like AA, except less humble-bragging about how drunk you got at senior prom and how you definitely already know your alcohol tolerance.

SadoveBasementMural: Our idea is to paint a replica of a famous painting, the *Joan-a Lisa*. Approval pending.

by Wynn Van Dusen '15, Carrie Solomon '16 and Jessye McGarry '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

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Letters to the Editor

Hell raises questions about stereotypes

Hell: The Musical is a momentous achievement for the Hamilton student body. In my three years at Hamilton I have not seen a group of students put on anything of that magnitude. Yet, contrary to popular belief, bigger is not always better. I do not mean to say that the musical was bad. No, I found the musical quite good and enjoyable. Moreover, it is a pleasure to see my peers participate in activities that they are passionate about. Rather, I found the musical problematic. Or should I say that amidst the grand set (that set was grand for a student performance), long script, and custom songs, I discovered that the musical potentially revolved around some racist and sexist stereotypes and caricatures.

Though I am a white, privileged, heterosexual, perceived as Christian, male and therefore am not necessarily in a position to make claims about racism, I feel inclined, as a self-proclaimed anti-racist, to bring my observations to the student body in the form of questions. I would like to say why I intend on raising these following questions. I felt that the musical relied on certain problematic stereotypes but given my position, I do not feel I have the authority to make a hard claim that there were in fact moments in the performance where racism and sexism replicated. In short, I am asking the student body what they saw in *Hell: The Musical*. Did you think that the young white man-child, i.e. the protagonist, played a role similar to Indiana Jones? Though such a comparison seems absurd at face value, I think that you will find that both the protagonist, Rick, and Indiana Jones perform a similar function. Both represent the mythic white hero, the white male messiah.

For instance, in The Temple of Doom, Indiana Jones "drags with him an oriental orphan (the only male his equal) and a screeching, hysterical woman," the natives are helpless to liberate themselves, and all it takes is for one "enterprising American, the great White god sent by destiny, to free the people" (Herman Vera and Andrew Gordon, *The Beautiful America: Sincere Fictions of the White Messiah in Hollywood Movies*). Analogously, the protagonist in the musical is a white privileged, heterosexual male that is mistakenly condemned to a hell that is occupied involuntarily by Judas, a gay man without hope, a woman helpless to change her situation, a "ghetto Hispanic," and a white priest who did not understand what it meant to be a priest. In the end, the protagonist wins the heart of the helpless woman and transforms her situation by reuniting her with her daughter in heaven. His mere presence is enough to encourage everyone to realize, either intentionally or unintentionally, that they have done bad deeds and ought to right their wrongs. Incidentally, wasn't Jesus non-white? To some of you my observations and questions might seem meaningless, nit-picky, or fallacious, but to me racism, sexism, etc. are relevant and the portrayal of people of different races and sexes matters.

—Rob Fagan '14

Annex a bad fit for theater productions

As I leave *Hell: The Musical*, I cannot stop smiling or thinking about how impressed I am. Jim Anesta, his partners in crime, all the cast and crew put on a fantastic show. *Hell* will most likely be one of only two musicals this year, since the choir puts on a musical once a year, and the theater department chooses not to do musical theater. What is even more impressive is that Jim and his friend wrote and scored the show themselves. No, this was not for his thesis—Jim is not even a theater major—it was for a club.

I am proud to be a Hamilton student when I see students being so passionate about their interests that they pursue it without receiving academic credit. As a second semester student of Live Design and Production (the main technical theater class on campus), I could not help but notice all the behind-the-scenes parts of the show that could have been improved had *Hell* been produced in a real theater rather than the Annex.

Don't get me wrong, I think the crew of *Hell* did the best they could with what they had available. But when the back wall reads "Patricia and Winton Tolles Pavilion,"the light board does not have the ability to make smooth transitions and the sound goes in and out making it very difficult to transport the audience into a different world, in this case, into Hell.

I wish that Minor Theater could have been used, so that the audience could have been transported even further into the story. I know that Jim requested to use the theater, but the theater department, which has control over Minor, did not allow him to do so.

I am so proud of Hamilton students in all aspects, and wholeheartedly believe that everyone on this campus should be focused on what we can do to help students follow their dreams and find their passion. This was not an option provided to Jim. I write this as a hope for the future. Next year our new theater complex will have two theaters, one which will be perfect for student productions, as long as students are allowed that option. I look forward to coming back as an alumna, and seeing these student productions thrive and fulfill their entire potential to allow students to chase their dreams.

—Tara Huggins '14

Hamilton leading political correctness?

Over the four years I spent at Hamilton, it was impossible not to notice a significant change in the culture of the campus and in the attitudes of students who fill it. I am talking about the proliferation of political correctness. That is not to say Hamilton was not PC when I was a freshman in 2009, but it was certainly some distance from the sanitized, offend-no-one-at-all-cost campus that exists today.

I remember there being a lot of fuss about flyers promoting an off-campus party, and wondering how something seemingly so innocuous could cause so much offense and warrant such a backlash. Now, I shudder to think what outcry a similarly harmless flyer would cause. For one reason or another, this Hamilton administration seems to be intent on making the school a leader in political correctness.

> "This Hamilton administration seems to be intent on making the school a leader in political corectness."

This desire to be the best at being PC has not gone unnoticed. The school distinguished itself by winning a Jefferson Muzzle Award in 2011. This award, given for abridgment of speech, was won by the administration for requiring all freshmen to attend "She Fears You," which automatically assumes men are complicit in a campus rape culture.

It does not end there. The lack of intellectual diversity on campus is there for all to see, as well. How can a school that gets giddy at the buzzword "diversity" have only one openly conservative member of the faculty? Something smells like hypocrisy.

Certain sections of the campus could do with donning a thicker skin. Perhaps the school would consider buying one with some of the funds at its disposal from the sizable endowment. Instead of jumping to condemn those who don't share the campus's left-leaning attitude, perhaps the school can see the humor that some of these differences bring to light.

I can categorically say the Hamilton administration would not have "good sense of humor" listed in an online dating profile. The over politicization of liberal arts colleges is nothing new; one must look no farther than the Oberlin racism hoax scandal to see that.

How long before a similar sham blights Hamilton?

I am a white, English male. Make an anti-English, misandrous joke that mocks white people, and I'll be the first one laughing.

Political correctness? Not at my Hamilton.

—Frederick Spencer '13

Let's get real, Hamilton

By Heather Krieger '14
Opinion Contributor

My friends here can attest that I could talk about food for hours. I am not the world's best cook, I do not religiously follow celebrity chefs and I am no more of a restaurant snob than most college students. However, get me started on industrial agriculture, community gardens or school lunch programs, and I promise to tell you everything I know.

For me, food goes way beyond what we eat every day; food is a vehicle for social change. It is one of the most universal mediums and that connects people all over the world. Regardless of what background one comes from or how much one cares about environmental issues or economic justice, food is something everyone thinks about at least three times a day.

That is why I am proud to represent the Real Food Challenge. This nation-wide movement unites students in the promotion of food that not only sustains us as consumers, but also supports our planet and the people worldwide who produce the food we eat. The RFC group at Hamilton is part of a campaign to shift over one billion dollars of college and university food-purchasing budgets toward food that is fair, locally-sourced, ecologically sound and humanely produced. We at Hamilton are lucky; we just got back the results from an analysis of Bon Apetit's invoices and found that we currently purchase 20 percent "real" food, including some varieties of fair trade coffee, cage free eggs and certain locally grown lettuces and apples. We plan to set a goal of to around 30 percent "real" food by 2020 and present this commitment to the college on National Food Day on Oct. 24. This is higher than what many other colleges and universities are aiming for; we want to be one of the leading institutions that have an even greater impact in food sourcing, adding to Hamilton's reputation as a prominent college that values sustainability.

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I hope, through the efforts of the Real Food Challenge, Slow Food, Bon Appétit, academic classes and other outlets, that we can stir up real conversation that considers food beyond what we see on our plates. It is so easy to be removed from the processes that go into food production, and I encourage everyone to start thinking and reconnect. Some farmworkers receive pennies out of the sales of the food they grow, areas of our country are destroyed from agricultural abuse and even though we produce more than enough food globally to support the world's population, one in every eight people suffers from malnourishment according to the UN FAO. On top of that, there are now more people who are overweight than those who are malnourished. The food industry in our country alone is riddled with competing issues of lack of access, an abundance of fast food, dietary concerns, industrial monopolies, and vanishing family farms. The decisions we make about what to eat are all at once unifying, divisive, traditional, avant-garde and ridden with political and economic issues.

But let's bring it back home. We are one of the fortunate communities that has the drive to work together to improve and transform our campus food purchasing. We can join together with colleges and universities across the country and purchase food that satisfies our palates, our budget, and our beliefs at the same time. So let's start thinking and questioning our food, and let's get excited for impact that Hamilton can have on food purchasing nationwide.

Hamilton says 'yes' to a brighter future

by Patrick English '15
Opinion Editor

This week, Hamilton College took a step in the right direction, adding its name to the list of private schools with a "Say Yes to Education" program.

The program, founded in 1987 by George A. Weiss, began in Philadelphia, and has now expanded with chapters in Hartford, CT; Cambridge, MA; New York, NY; Syracuse, NY and Buffalo, NY. Say Yes targets four major pain points for low-income, inner-city students: social/economic obstacles, health or health care problems, academic challenges and economic barriers. They follow up with diagnostic assessments and early intervention to get students on theright track towards post-secondary education.

Starting with the class of 2018, Hamilton will essentially waive tuition and fees for qualifying Say Yes students whose annual family income falls below $75,000. A number of students who could not previously afford a Hamilton education will now be able to attend the College.

This is an important change in terms of Hamilton's use of its financial aid. Before the Say Yes program, the office of Admission provided financial aid on a case-by-case basis. This means that Hamilton looked at inner city, low-income students after they had faced some of the problems mentioned above. The Say Yes program uses a proactive approach to help solve these problems, getting more capable students into four-year colleges. Thirteen percent of students in the Class of 2017 represent the first generation of their family to attend college. This number will only grow as a result of this program.

However, there are arguments against funding programs like Say Yes. Dale Mezzacappa from Smith College wrote in an article titled "Pieces of an Educational Dream" for *The Philadelphia Inquirer* that while Say Yes "might have been a noble experiment that changed lives, its results have not approached its cost." Fewer than 80% of students in these programs have graduated college, meaning this program could pull Hamilton's four-year graduation rate down from 85 percent. Say Yes looks good on the surface, but there are several factors it could improve on. For example, the program could spend more time explaining the meaning of college to its students, rather than just gifting them a four-year education, as it seems to do. Surely, there are non-profits similar to Say Yes, but with better graduation rates for their students.

Another sentiment against investment in these programs has to do with affirmative action. It is likely that Hamilton will admit several Say Yes students over students that are as qualified, but only differentiate in their lower incomes. While Say Yes is well intentioned, Hamilton cannot let this program overstep hard-working applicants who have higher incomes. They are just as deserving of this education and cannot do much about the income of the family they were born into.

Notwithstanding the program's shortcomings, the addition of Say Yes to the admissions process is a good move for the College. Students who could never dream of attending any postsecondary school will now have a chance to join the Hamilton community.

Letter to the Editor

Negativity surrounds Greek life

Last week, the Spectator editorial staff commented, "For all the benefits that Greek societies deliver to the campus community, there are also obvious drawbacks to their existence," emphasizing their aversion to "the exclusive nature of such societies—an exclusivity that serves to divide the campus rather than unite it." As a student involved in Greek life, I would like to respond. Firstly, in reality there are very few exclusively Greek events. Nearly every weekend, societies host all-campus parties, which welcome all students, and never has there been an event that specifically excluded non-Greeks. Whether or not other students choose to attend these events is their choice; but the option is always there. Yes, we do have formals and the occasional "mixer" with another society or campus group, but so do the soccer teams, a capella groups, rugby teams and a variety of other organizations. We also sometimes eat meals together or do homework together, just as a sports team eats together after practice or a group of friends does work together after class. We do it because we are friends, not because we are in a society. Some people might argue we would not even be friends if it had not been for joining Greek life, but think about your friends who you met through a club or organization—would you have met and become friends with them if you had not? Some might also say, "Well I joined that club because I love whatever it is the club does." Well, I joined Greek life because I wanted to meet upperclassmen and new people in general, and through joining, I have. To put it simply, we are no different from any other campus group.

As Elizabeth Rodriguez wrote in the Spectator's September 5th issue, "we are just like everyone else." Recently, however, I have seen something that differentiates us from the rest of campus; we have not criticized, mocked or disapproved of the organization of another campus group. I am not specifically referencing the recent changes to Greek life recruitment, but rather the attitude on campus toward Greek societies. Many times I have overheard, and been the recipient of, negative comments about Greek life: absurd speculations ("They make them eat disgusting things during pledging"), rude exclamations ("They're all assholes") and generally malicious statements ("They're stuck up rich kids"). It is true that not everyone is perfect, but that is applicable to everyone on Earth, not just its Greek life members.

What I want to ask is, "Why?" I cannot name a person in Greek life who I have heard slander another Hamilton group, so why the continuous resentment? To me, it is these kinds of attitudes that divide Hamilton, not students' affiliations to particular campus groups. Editorials and somewhat slanted articles like those I have read recently only serve to continue to create this "divide," and frankly, that is unfair.

—Sally Bourdon '15

From Where I Sit:
Hamilton's international perspectives

By Hristina Mangelova '16
Features Contributor

"We need four hugs a day for survival. We need eight hugs a day for maintenance. We need twelve hugs a day for growth."
—Virginia Satir

Dear international first years,

By this time you have probably heard "welcome to Hamilton" a ton, so I won't repeat it. Instead, I want to hug each one of you because you are all such amazing, brave and strong people! I wish someone hugged me more last year—but then again, this taught me how to hug myself. Hopefully, by the end of my letter I will have convinced you that you'll do your readings faster, find great friends, be able to state your opinion in class discussion without blanking out on words every other sentence, feel happier, get used to the party scene or whatever else that bothers you now *will* get better.

During my first semester at Hamilton, I took Introduction to Political Theory with Professor Martin. I loved that class but I felt like the readings were slowly killing me. Never before had I read Plato's original texts even in Bulgarian (my native language), not to mention English. It took me five hours to read 10 pages… As for my first paper, it took me many days, two all-nighters, more hours in the library than I would like to admit and two appointments with Professor Barbara Britt-Hysell (the director of the ESOL program). When I turned in that paper, oh man, words can't begin to describe how happy I was! That is not to say that your experience will be the same. On the contrary, it is likely that you are a faster and better writer than I was.

My experience at Hamilton so far has taught me that everyone's experience is different (very clever, I know). Some adapt to the coursework faster, others slower but, trust me on this one. You can *always* rely on the tutors and Professor Hysell (aka "the mother of international students") to help you out. It doesn't matter whether it's a reading assignment you can't understand, a paper you can't finish or if you just want to have a second pair of eyes to look through your essay. The ESOL department is located in Buttrick (the small house next to Commons where the President is). Just go there and make an appointment!

Another great resource you can use is the International Student Association. There you can meet international upperclassmen or get involved with the organization of events—our most recent event was the Mid-Autumn Festival and this Friday we'll participate in the International Food & Culture Festival. In early October, we will have a guest-speaker, Professor Trenkov-Wermuth of the Government department, who was an international student and a Hamilton alum! Other things you can look forward to are a special panel session with a representative of the Career Center and international movie screening! We meet every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the Days-Massolo Center. You can even bring your American friends if they are interested! Everyone's welcome!

COURTESY OF HRISTINA MANGELOVA '16

There are so many other random things I can say about being an international student like making American friends because they will help you immerse into the culture; join clubs, meet people; ask your professors to repeat whatever it is that you can't understand; experiment with the food in the dining halls (my personal favorite is any kind of rice or beans with marinara sauce, feta cheese and some veggies on the side); play American board games (Apples to Apples) and this will help you understand their sense of humor. It's OK to feel sad, but don't hold it in trying to be strong. Instead, talk to somebody! If you don't feel like sharing with a professor or a friend, go to the Counseling Center. The counselors are awesome and will listen to your blabbing without peeking at their phones every other minute. My list is too long so I will stop here.

Ultimately, trust yourself that you can do this! You've come such a long way already, things will only get better from now on. You are at Hamilton for a reason, and as important as education is, you being happy is more important! Go with your gut, cut yourself some slack and in the meantime have fun!

P.S. Don't forget to get your daily dose of hugs! It makes a difference.

"From Where I Sit" is a column dedicated to the international voices of Hamilton's campus. If you are an international student and are interested in contributing a column, contact Barbara Britt-Hysell (bbritthy@hamilton.edu).

Hamilton Outing Club matches 2008 record on 46 Peaks weekend

By Jill Chipman '14
Features Editor

A little rain and some cold weather couldn't stop the devoted members of the Hamilton Outing Club (HOC) from triumphing over 43 of the 46 Adirondack High Peaks as part of the club's annual 46 Peaks Weekend. From Sept. 20 through Sept. 22, over 150 students spread over 21 trips took on the challenge, with one group covering 35 miles and eight peaks.

The 46 Peaks are the tallest peaks in New York State located in the High Peaks region of the Adirondack Mountains. Most of these peaks are over 4,000 feet in height, with the highest peak being Mount Marcy at 5,344 feet. Every year, the Outing Club makes a collective effort to climb all 46 peaks in one weekend. This year's climbers matched the record, with 43 peaks "bagged."

While some members of the Hamilton community participate every year, there are always some first-timers without much experience. Nate Somes '16 decided to go after having an enjoyable time during Pre-Orientation on Adirondack Adventure. Another HOC hiker, Jessica Sofen '16, wanted to participate last year but wasn't able to, so she cleared her schedule to ensure her involvement this year.

Hamilton's 46 Peaks Weekend has always been one of the most popular HOC trips. It is not uncommon for waitlists to form for most if not all of the possible trips. All trips are supervised by at least one HOC leader. A variety of trips are offered every year, ranging from slightly less intense backpacking day trips to more challenging overnight trips. This year there were two Friday day trips as well as two weekend trips.

Sofen participated in one of the overnight backpacking trips. Her group departed campus at 1 p.m. on Friday, hiked three miles to their campsite and at 8:30 Saturday morning, started climbing two peaks. The overall trip distance was about 15 miles and Sofen joked that she felt dead (although very satisfied) when her group made it back to campus.

"I overestimated my hiking abilities a bit," Sofen said, "but I felt really accomplished when I finished the trip!" She suggests that students who are interested but might not have the experience talk to a HOC member to make sure they pick an appropriate trip. She also suggests day trips for less experienced hikers.

Somes also participated in an overnight backpacking trip. After spending the night at base camp on Friday night, the group arose at 6 a.m. to get an early start. The goal was to reach four peaks by the Saturday evening, which they succeeded in doing. His group spent the night at a camp at the fourth peak, woke up early Sunday morning and made it back to campus by early Sunday afternoon (in time for the NFL games, Somes noted).

Both Somes and Sofen agree that the HOC leaders do a lot to make sure everyone on the trip has a good time but most importantly a safe time. HOC provides many of the participants with the basic camping equipment that they need. This ensures maximum participation and prevents anyone from being left out simply because they do not have something.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSICA SOFEN '16

Sofen '16 and her HOC group as they climb one of the Adirondack High Peaks.

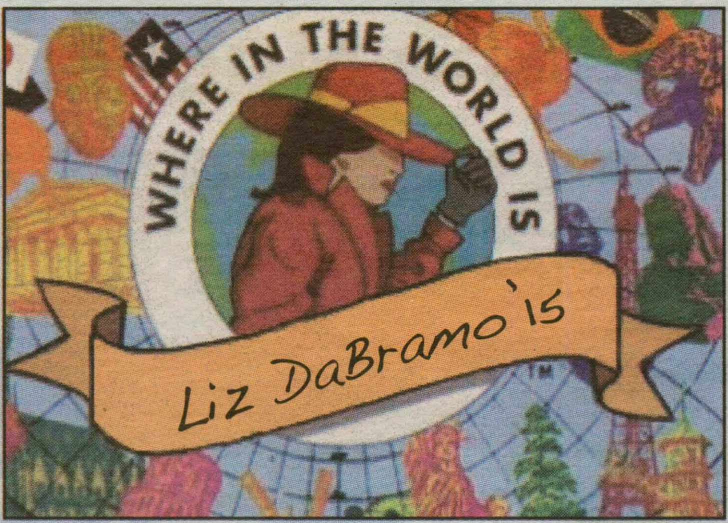
"For students who want to try it but don't think they have the background experience I'd say to go for it. Two of the other members of the trip and I did not have a lot of experience hiking or camping and even on a high difficulty trip we had a blast and picked up everything quickly. The HOC leaders all know what they're doing so you're always in good hands," said Somes.

Sofen echoed his sentiments by saying "have no doubt that anyone can participate in this weekend! You can pretty much borrow everything you need from HOC."

While Somes and Sofen are first timers to 46 Peaks weekend, some members of the HOC community hold the distinguished title of 46er. The 46ers are a group of hikers who have successfully climbed all 46 peaks. The Adirondack 46ers currently boasts over 7,000 members. Max Milder '14 is one such member. His first climb was in 2004 when he climbed Whiteface Mountain. He accomplished his goal in 2007 by finishing Rocky Peak. Several other HOC members hold this title and it is considered a great honor among the hiking community.

Although HOC was not able to summit all 46 peaks this year, members remain optimistic that the goal can be accomplished in the future.

Any students who are interested in getting involved with HOC are invited to stop by the Glen House during open hours from 7 to 9 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. HOC also rents equipment for students to use on their own outdoor excursions.



by Liz DaBramo '15
Features Contributor

India conjures all sorts of connotations—Gandhi, elephants, the caste system, the world's largest democracy, crowds, poverty, vibrancy, the list goes on. So far, the word that best describes my experience is stimulating. Or overstimulating.

Everything in India is so intense, rich, flavorful, emotional and exciting. I never stop trying to absorb all of the colors, smells, noises, textures, patterns and tastes. Even trying to drift off to sleep, I can hear the dog fights and incessant horns from the autorickshaws. It's hard to avert my eyes from the bright, popping patterns and colors of the kortis (Indian "blouses"). My mouth still stings with spice, even after a cooling mango lassi or yogurt dish. After a short walk, I can smell anything from delicious street food to bus exhaust to tear gas, which I narrowly avoided last week.

I love it so far. TV spots and magazine spreads aren't kidding around when they call this place "incredible" India.

So where am I specifically? The New York State Independent College Consortium for Study in India (NYSICCSI—an unnecessarily long acronym) travels to various cities in northern India. A group of thirteen students from Hamilton, Hobart and William Smith and Saint Lawrence spent two weeks in Delhi and three days in Amritsar, the home of the Golden Temple on the border of Pakistan. We are on the way to Jaipurthe—Pink City—to spend five weeks with a homestay family, followed by a five day vacation (to Leh for me in the foothills of the Himalayas!), four weeks in Varanasi on the banks of the Ganges River, one week in Bodh Gaya, then back to Delhi for two weeks before we head back to upstate New York. I was initially attracted to the program because we are able to travel all over the country, rather than have another static university experience.

This is not anything like being on a campus At our orientation, we gathered around a conference table listening to our leaders inexhaustible advice including, but not limited to: never go out alone, be back by 8:30 p.m., wear long baggy pants, wear long Indian shirts, always where a dupatta (it's our honor and integrity!), don't wear your hair down, don't go outside with your hair wet, no alcohol, no eye contact, no conversations with anyone we meet on the streets, etc, etc. In the mist of the session, chanting from a protest right outside of our hotel compound kept getting louder and at one point the electricity shut off (to be turned on soon after from a generator). I left feeling less than completely confident.

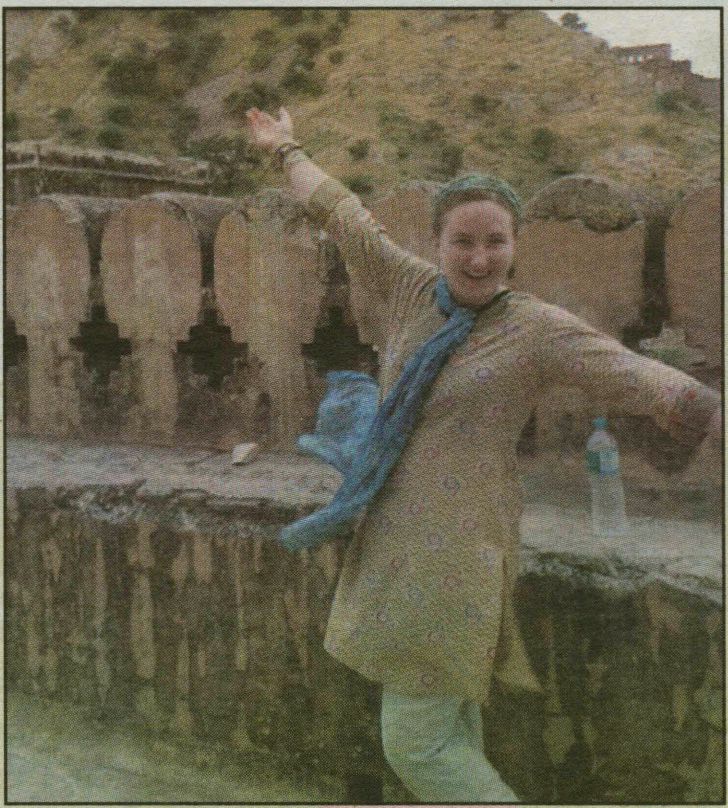
Before we knew it, we became comfortable maneuvering through the streets of Delhi and Amritsar. Our bargaining skills improved, we could successfully negotiate with a rickshaw driver and we started straight to the Women's Car on the subway. But we still guess most of the time when we order food.

However, we do not just explore all day, we also have academics to worry about. Our professor, Vikash Yadav from Hobart and William Smith, is teaching three classes: Contemporary India, Historic India, Hindi—in addition to advising our independent research project.

It is difficult to balance academics because simply being in India is a challenging learning experience. There is no better way to learn about a history and culture than by being there. For example, we journeyed through the narrow, overcrowded, smelly streets in Old Delhi and saw old British houses from the British Raj and the extensive Red Fort from the Mughal era. In only three days in Amritsar, I have learned so much more about Sikhism than I ever would in a book. The men in turbans who carry around swords are actually incredible welcoming, always asking us questions, helping us understand beliefs or giving us a free meal at the Gurudwara (Sikh shrine). The history of the Punjab from the Partition to Operation Blue Star is all the more real.

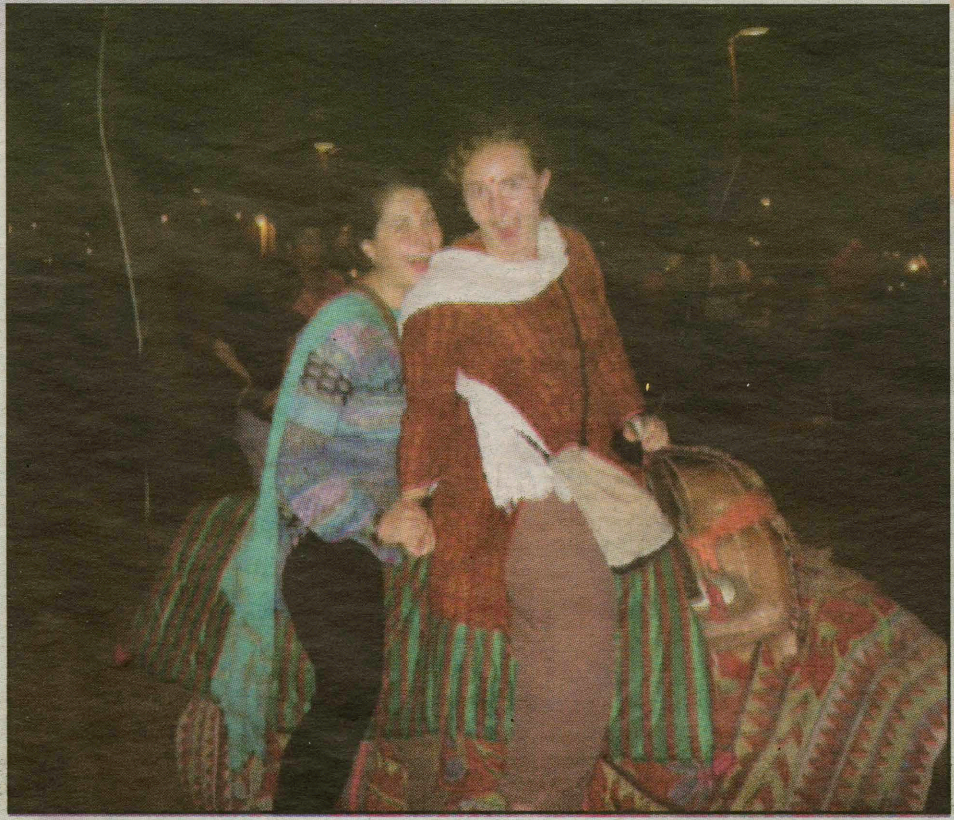
One of my favorite days so far (besides the Bollywood movie Baagh Milkha Baagh and the ceremony at the India-Pakistan border which will take too long to describe in this article but I strongly recommend) was our trip to Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi. We walked up the long stairs from the metro into a different world. First, we could hear the constant echo of motorcycle and autorickshaw horns. Then we could start to smell the incense, food and urine. Piling on to the street, we saw the seeming parade of bicycle rickshaws, carts, bikes, people, dogs, and stands. There were streets where real estate was so scarce that shops were practically piled atop one another. Many of them were unmarked, and the few that had signs were only adorned with posters stating the name of the shop. Most shops were only big enough for about five people and the owners sat cross-legged on a white sheet. The tangled, jumbled powerlines somehow weaved between the buildings. We only had to duck a couple of times. Monkeys crawled along them to pass from building to building. The houses seemed to be mismatched, like someone just plopped down structure on structure without considering style or configuration. It was literally layers of civilizations. Our guide pointed out a few colonial houses on the second floor of about three and a half to four floors marked by their permanent steel awnings and décor. If he didn't instruct us to stop and look, I never would have noticed. By looking up you risk tripping in a construction site, stepping in what might have been dog poo or getting hit by some vehicle or another. I was lucky that I missed a cart full of propane tanks by a hair. The saying is "Might is right" in India, so whoever is biggest has the right of way, regardless of real rules. Single file was essential here.

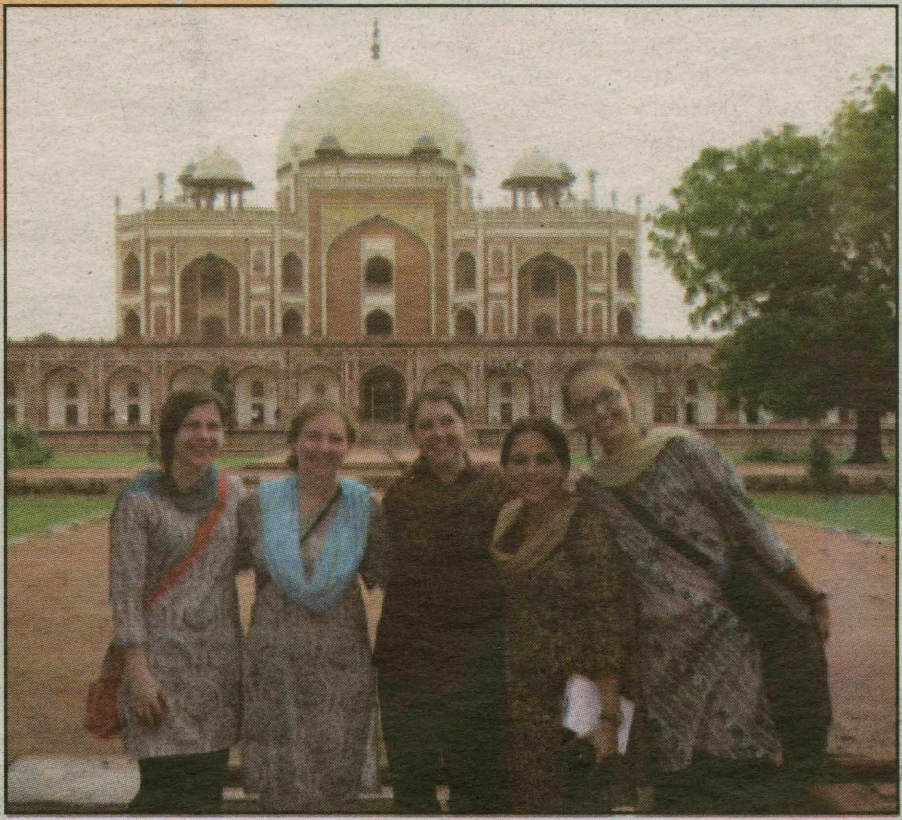
It's exhilirating but also illuminating to be in a place where my otherness is so marked. While descriptions and images are helpful, nothing quite compares to visiting India firsthand.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIZ DABRAMO '15

Liz DaBramo '15 shows off the Indian countryside





Left: DaBramo enjoys a camel ride with classmate Shannon O'Brien '15. Right: Hamilton students currently studying in India.

A heavenly evening in 'Hell: The Musical'

by Brian Burns '17
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

"What if death was a second chance?" is the question posed by *Hell: The Musical*, which premiered last week at the Tolles Pavillion. The production flies above any expectations set by its cutesy title with its surprising emotional heft. There are no flashy numbers to be found—just the thrill of watching fully-realized characters struggle for a chance at redemption. With a story so strong, the "musical" aspect is not even necessary (though it supplies a nice garnish to the proceedings).

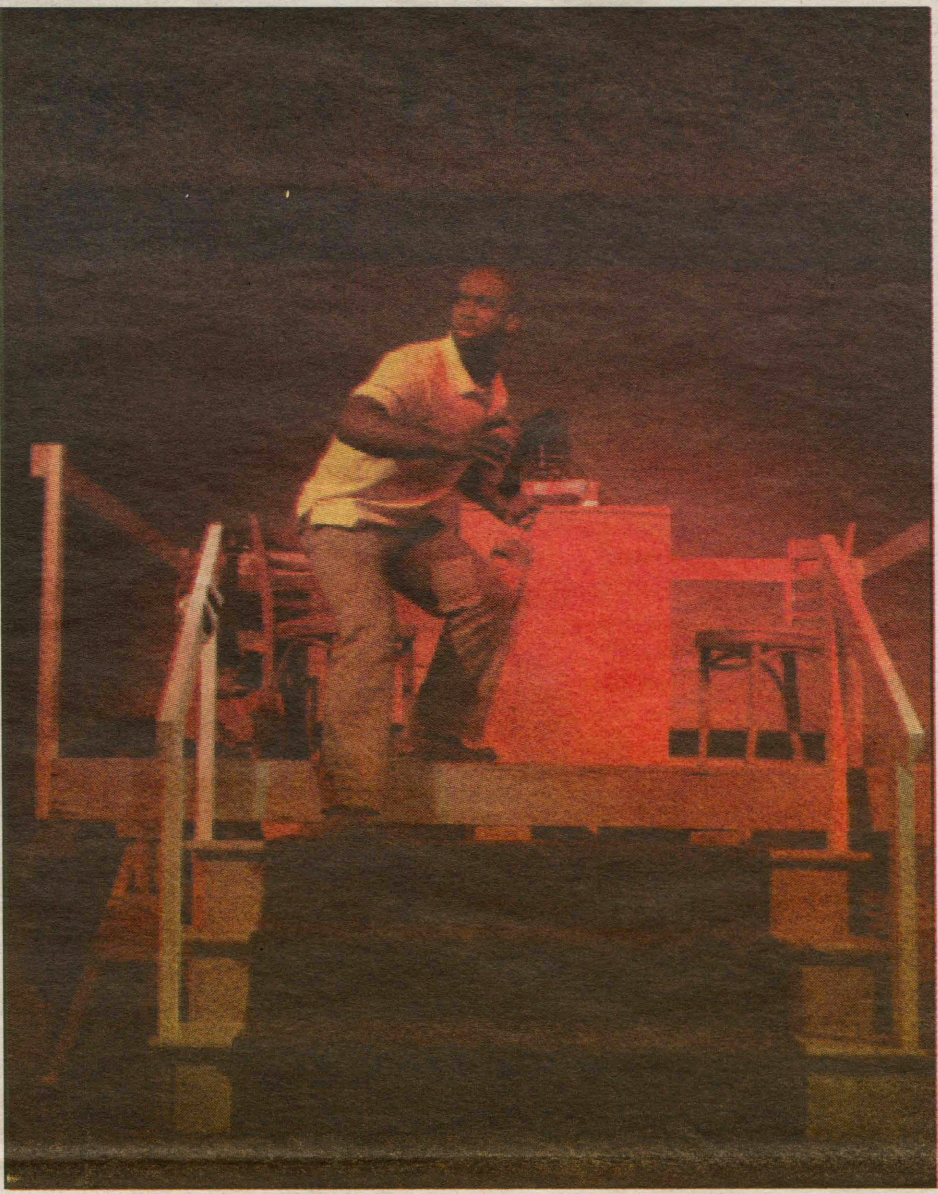
The action opens with the sound of a bus crash that takes the life of our protagonist, Rick. He arrives in Hell via the office of the devil himself who, in this iteration, is a business drone. Rick is told that through a mix-up he has been assigned to the underworld and must live among the damned for a week before his ticket to heaven arrives. He becomes acquainted with the locals at a nearby hotel and soon learns that some of Hell's residents have been mysteriously "burning up" and turning to ashes.

The opening of Hell is marked by quirky world-building details. For example, the devil hands Rick a pamphlet when he first comes to Hell explaining his new surroundings. The "Hell as a business environment" metaphor works well in establishing the musical's humor—subtle rather than bawdy, with an undercurrent of darkness. There are also clever flourishes such as the mantra that the damned live by—"YODO" a.k.a. "you only die once."

As the tragic backstories of the hell-bound characters come to light at the end of the first act, the play takes on an unanticipated resonance. It is a tribute to the writing team of Jim Anesta '14 and Ward Pettibone that some truly weighty themes are broached by this musical. Torian Pope '14 is particularly adept at conveying raw emotion, as his character Austin pines for his lover who committed suicide back on Earth. However, every member of the small cast gets their opportunity to project pathos, as the story calls on most of the characters to erupt at one point. Nate Goebel '15 plays the Prince of Darkness with the dry sense of humor and world-weariness of a man who has held the same job for two millennia. Kevin Herrera '16 (Todd) and Peter Bresnan '15 (Father Lane), imbue their characters with humanity despite their sometimes-tenuous morality. Will Schoder '14 (Pete) to play many facets of his ever-evolving character. Shea Crockett '15 (Rick) plays a foil to the rest of the cast, but the final scenes give him ample room to emote.

The musical numbers take a secondary position to the story, and drop out for some of the more intense segments. The songs aren't always distinctive and occasionally dive into cliché, but *Hell* always emerges from them with a stronger sense of purpose. As for the singing—Kiki Sosa '15 (Maria) equips herself the best. Her songs provide the most insight into her character, and some of the most heart-wrenching moments of the show.

There is an admirable DIY aesthetic to the unadorned set and lighting effects. This is particularly seen in the inventive transitions, as two scenes occasionally play out on the stage at the same time. Even the small band providing the music on the side of the stage slipped in and out when it was not their cue.



Senior Torian Pope brings passion to the conflicted character Austin.

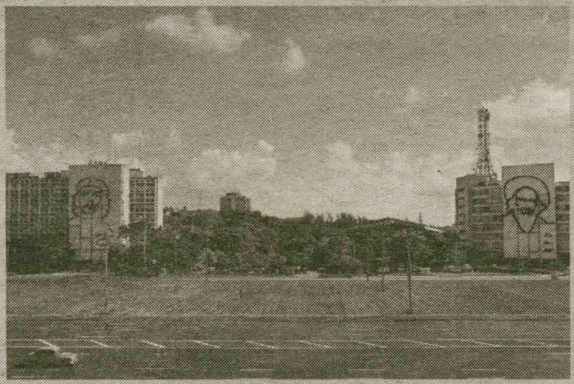
There are some twists in the final act, some of a Biblical nature. Perhaps what one would least expect of a musical called Hell is a happy ending, but this production manages one that is not only suitable, but sweet.

Hell: The Musical puts larger-scale musicals to shame with its sincerity. For a supposed "fantasy," it is sometimes startlingly grounded. Anesta and Pettibone have crafted a heartfelt meditation on the power of the human spirit that, even in death, still lives on. One can only hope for a sequel—perhaps *Heaven: the Musical*?

PHOTOS BY HANNAH ALLEN '14

Nate Goebel '15 (above) ignites the audience with a fiery performance while the rest of the cast drinks their way through *Hell*.

WELLIN



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September 28 – December 22, 2013

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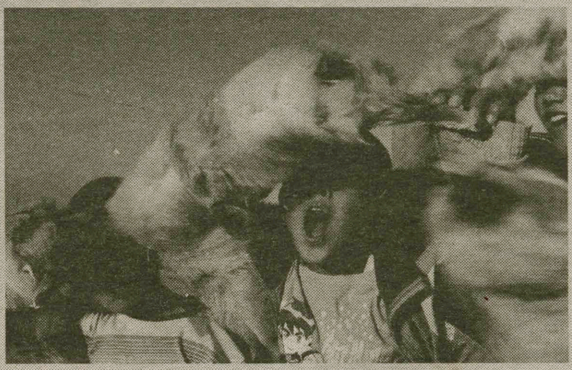

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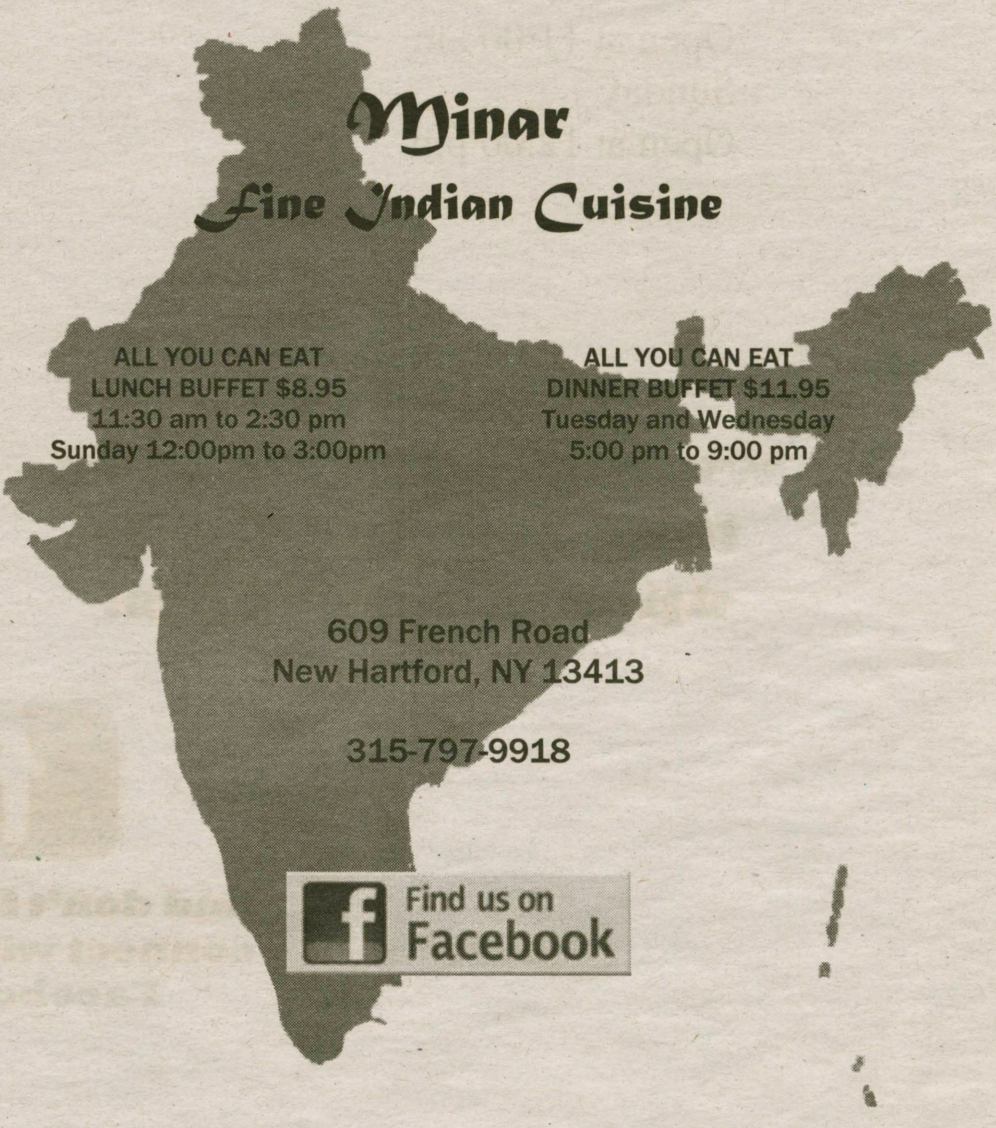

Volleyball serves strong game, but falls to Mules

by Ben Fields '15 and Sirianna Santacrose '15
Sports Editors

In a sport decided by sets, it can be easy to assume that a 3-1 loss is a blowout. But this was not the case for Hamilton's women's volleyball team, this past Friday, in their match against Colby.

The Continentals went into the game with high hopes and equally high ambitions, but came away short against the Mules from Maine. This was the first NESCAC challenge for both squads, making it an important match both for morale and conference standings.

Although the Conts came away with just one set in the best-of-five contest, they kept each set close, and made every point competitive. With a first set victory (25-20), Hamilton looked to keep rolling towards the win, but fell short in the second set after stretching it to 32-30.

Anna Brown '15 explained, "the last three sets were very tight, and there was little room for error." The two teams played very similar games, each forcing the other to make one more shot. But it was Colby who was able to pull away in each set winning the next two 25-20 and 25-23 respectively.

"In the first set, our defense was on fire...the hitters were being very smart about mixing up their shots," explained Head Coach Erin Glaser. However, she added, "the final sets were very up and down for us...A lot of it is just mental... Colby definitely rose to our level of play after the first set...[and] probably played their best game of the season against us on Friday."

Similarly, Courtney Somerville '16 felt that the team "lost the last three sets because we were waiting for Colby to make mistakes instead of being strategic and creating scoring opportunities for ourselves. Colby is a great team and they aren't going to give us points; we need to earn them."

Still, this was not a match without highlights for the Continentals. Somerville had a career-best 15 kills and six blocks, while Brenna Corrigan '14 tacked on a season-high 13 kills. Anna Brown, the team's libero, led with 29 digs, including her 1,000th career dig, and four service aces.

> "Even though we didn't get the results we wanted, we communicated very well and our defense was great."
> —*Anna Brown '15*

Overall, Brown was pleased with the way the Conts played against Colby. "Even though we did not get the result we wanted," she said, "we communicated very well and our defense was great. We are working on our ability to close games... [and] on our discipline and consistency."

Following the home match against Colby, the Conts travelled to SUNY Oswego for their Fall Classic. At Oswego, the Conts split their two matches, handily defeating Alfred State in three quick sets, and losing a very competitive match against SUNY Oswego. Jessica Weston '17 earned all-tournament honors for her play during the matches at Oswego. She posted a season-high 11 kills while adding two solo blocks against Alfred State, and hammered in seven more kills against Oswego. Other highlights from the tournament included Sarah Pfund '14 recording a total of 64 assists and Corrigan knocking down 22 kills.

Coach Glaser is looking for the team to continue working hard in practices in order to yield more positive results. "For the coming weeks, we will be working on mixing up our hitting selection, aggressive defensive transitions and earning points. Practices will revolve around drills that require long periods of focus and execution to score points." She hopes this will help the team mentally prepare for difficult matches and long rallies.

Coming up next for Hamilton volleyball, the Continentals will play host to the Middlebury College Panthers and Union College's Dutchwomen on Saturday, Sept. 28. With both a NESCAC match and an old Liberty League match-up, this promises to be an exciting day of volleyball for the Conts.

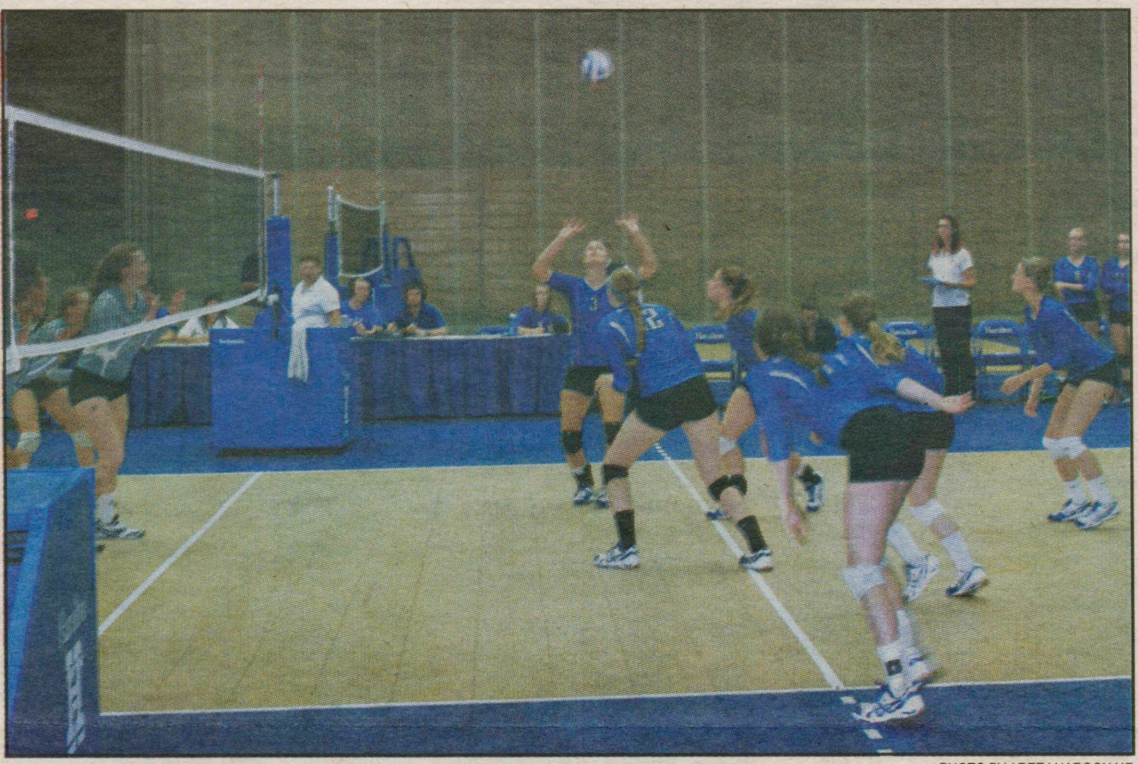

PHOTO BY AREEJ HAROON '17

Erin Casey '15 sets up a play in the Conts' match against Colby last Friday.

W. Golf par for the course

by Sterling Xie '16
Sports Writer

Ideally, practice should prepare a team to face more difficult circumstances than they will ever encounter in game situations. Unfortunately, in a sport like golf, where course layout and conditions essentially dictate the results, it is not always possible to simulate what one will face in tournaments.

At the Mount Holyoke Invitational last weekend, the Hamilton women's golf team played at the Orchards Golf Course in South Hadley, Massachusetts, which hosted the U.S. Women's Open in 2004. Hamilton only had four players at the tournament while all the other schools had five players each. This difference made every Hamilton score count. Facing a challenging course, the Continentals finished 12th out of 14 teams, with a cumulative two-day score of 778.

Saturday's first round was an encouraging start, as Hamilton started off with a cumulative 379, leaving the team just behind a cluster of schools in the middle of the pack. First-year Katie Veasey shot the team's low score of the day with a 92 and was the only Continental to lower her score on Sunday, shooting an 89.

> "We have a great group of girls on this team, and we are all looking forward to improving our play."
> —*Katie Steates '15*

On Saturday, Charlotte Chandler '17 and Liz Morris '16 carded 93s, finishing one stroke behind Veasey. Morris saw the encouraging first round as more emblematic of the team's overall ability, noting how the lack of an extra golfer eliminated any margin for error.

"I'd say that our first round was a solid start. The Orchards is not an easy course...and we did a good job navigating deep bunkers, tight fairways and tricky greens. Sunday wasn't the best representation of what our team is capable of but every hole was a learning experience. And we're bringing those lessons to practice this week and up to Middlebury this weekend."

Women's golf has only been a varsity sport at Hamilton for two years. Combined with the team's relative youth, the 2013 season is a foundation upon which to build. As the eldest member of the team, Katie Steates '15 feels the responsibility to help build Hamilton into a consistent contender.

"It's not really about my age," she insisted. "All the scores have been close in practice and at the tournaments. We have a great group of girls on this team, and we are all looking forward to improving our play and competing over the next couple of weeks. We are really excited about our future prospects."

The Continentals will play at Middlebury Invitational at Ralph Myhre Golf Course this weekend. Per the USGA course rating and slope database, the Ralph Myhre course should be considerably easier, rated at about a stroke to a stroke-and-a-half easier. While the Continentals may not have been fully prepared for what they encountered last weekend, the lessons they learned from a trying tournament should bear fruitful short-term and long-term results.

Football lacks offensive vigor vs. Amherst

*from **Football**, page 16*

ceptions by Amherst resulted in 70 yards gained. This often left them in prime field position, and ended once in a touchdown. The loss was not unexpected: Amherst, a NESCAC powerhouse, went 6-2 last year.

Hamilton's current lack of a definitive quarterback and consistent offensive power puts more pressure on the team to perform better in upcoming games. The team will continue its season this Saturday with another home game against the Wesleyan Cardinals, who beat Tufts 52-9 last weekend.

Jia believes that Tufts is a "good team with a lot of returners, as opposed to our very young team." Although Saturday's game will be another tough match-up, he added, "if we're consistent and try to avoid mistakes, we know we can be the better team." According to the optimistic attitude of Coach Cohen, "Our state of mind every game is that we believe we have a chance to line up against any team."

With the combination of a strong defense and the hopes for a more clearly defined offense in the works, Hamilton will look to improve as the season progresses. They look for their first win against Wesleyan this Saturday.

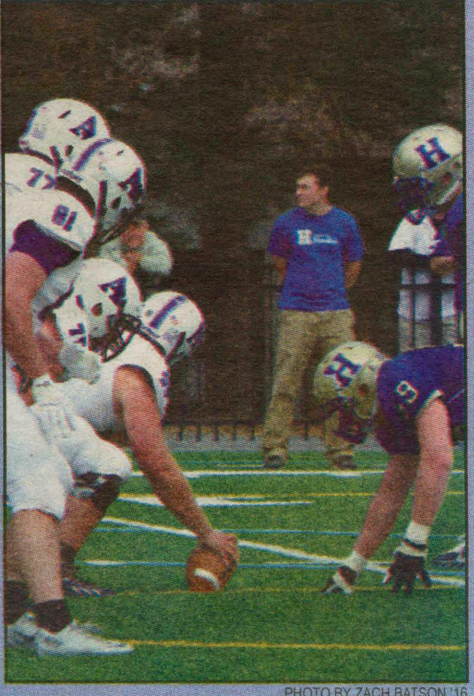

PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16

The Conts line up against Amherst.

SPECTATOR SPORTS
September 26, 2013

Rugby dominates in home opener vs. LeMoyne

by Daphne Assimakopoulos '17
Sports Contributor

This past Saturday, the Hamilton College women's rugby team came out strong against LeMoyne College in their first home match of the season. Despite the gloom and clouds, the team lit up on offense and won the contest 93 to 5.

The team was full of excitement and energy as they defended their home turf, Minor Field, for the first time this season. Fans and players on the sidelines brought their own intensity with loud cheers and raucous support.

Hamilton got an early jump and scored frequently in both halves. Hannah Nekoroski '15 and Andee Bucciarelli '14 both contributed to the explosive offense, as did Lilly McCullough '15. Nekoroski scored seven tries and McCullough contributed three throughout the game. HCWRFC was also solid defensively, and shut down LeMoyne's offense.

The return of several key players has led to the team's success so far. Newcomers also contributed to the success of the team, seamlessly weaving themselves into the tightly knit group.

Becka Gaines '15 was proud of the way the newer players contributed to the form of play: "It was great that some rookies were able to play and did a spectacular job for their first time on the field."

Senior captain Clare O'Grady stressed that "the key to our success against LeMoyne was dependent on our team's unity. Even with a significant number of new players on the field, the communication, the support and the encouragement were all very much present."

> **"The key to our success against LeMoyne was dependent on our team's unity."**
> *—Clare O'Grady '14*

Similarly, Gaines said, "we had a lot of good communication and support between the backs and the forwards." She was also impressed with their intensity, adding, "we stayed aggressive and played hard for all 80 minutes, [and] we were able to spot gaps in LeMoyne's defense [allowing us] to run through and score."

HCWRFC competes in the Excelsior Women's Rugby League and hope to continue with their previous success in future games. They finished the 2012 fall season in second place, and with their drive and passion, it seems as if they can only improve from here.

O'Grady commented that "we were playing offense for most of the duration of the match, which provided us with a great opportunity to really focus on and try out some of our set plays and improve our field vision. I think these two factors are going to be integral to our success in upcoming matches."

Looking ahead, the women's rugby team will attempt to continue its hot streak and stay undefeated as it hosts Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute this coming Saturday on Minor Field at 11 a.m. Following the women, the men's team will play the second game of the day against the Engineers at 1 p.m.

PHOTO BY SANDY WU '16

Pack captain Hannah Wagner '15 jumps during a line-out to gain possession of the ball.

Football struggles with turnovers in season opener

by Charles Ainsworth '17
Sports Contributor

Last Saturday, the Continentals played Amherst in a home game that tested each player's endurance and morale. Although Hamilton's defensive unit kept the Continentals above water for the majority of the game, a lack of consistency and power from the offensive side led to a 7-23 loss to the Lord Jeffs.

Hamilton sophomore Colin Pastorella and first-year Chase Rosenberg traded quarterback roles, throwing for 47 and 23 yards, respectively. The two collectively threw five interceptions, which proved to make a difference in the overall game play.

While Pastorella and Rosenberg are both new to the quarterback position, Head Coach Andrew Cohen saw this game as an opportunity to test their endurance and ability to play under pressure. According to Cohen, "Both of these quarterbacks are young and talented and we're trying to figure out who gives us the best chance to win during the week in practice."

However, Simon Jia '16 recognized that it was difficult for them to be put in this position so early in the season: "The two quarterbacks are young...the fact that they switched back and forth made it difficult for either of them to gain momentum...and put more pressure on each to keep up the intensity while they were playing."

Quarterback Max Lippe '15 led Amherst, throwing 162 yards and adding a touchdown on 16 completions. He also rushed for 13 yards in the game. Hamilton's James Stanell '14 ran for 89 yards as the Continentals rushed for 153 yards overall, around 50 yards more than the Lord Jeffs. Sophomore Rico Gonzales ran four yards for the only Hamilton points of the day. Additionally, Hamilton had 16 first downs to Amherst's 13. The Continentals converted on 37 percent of their third downs and also had an advantage on time of possession by about seven minutes.

Hamilton's team believed it was still in the game by the third quarter, during which the Conts held Amherst to a scoreless count. As Jia said, "The defense kept us in the game. We thought we were still in the game because our defense kept stopping them and creating turnovers for us, which also gave us decent field positions. But we just weren't able to score and take advantages of opportunities in the red zone." Coach Cohen said that in this point in the game, "both the players and coaching staff were very confident. We thought we were going to come out in the third [and] get our offense going...But, turnovers made the difference."

All momentum was lost when an interception thrown by Rosenberg ended the third quarter. Although Amherst took possession, the Continentals' defense kept a good field position and prevented them from making a touchdown, resulting in the Lord Jeffs having to settle for a field goal.

Still, turnovers proved to be Hamilton's downfall. The five interceptions by Amherst resulted

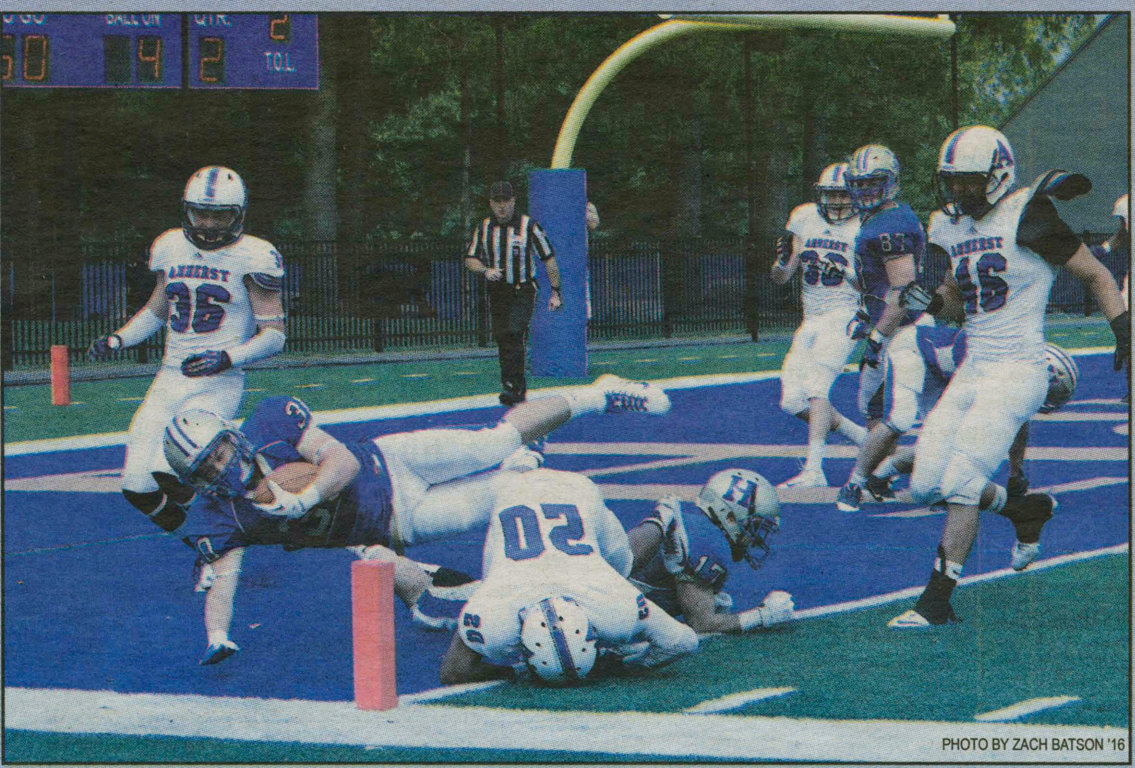

PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16

Last Saturday, Rico Gonzalez '16 scored his first collegiate touchdown.

see *Football*, page 15